

What is claimed is:

1. A combined support structure and cooling duct system directed to electronic circuitry in a control console of an x-ray food inspection station, comprising:

    a console enclosure containing the electronic circuitry in an interior region thereof; and

    a heat-dissipating duct, external to the console enclosure, having two ends that are both in airflow communication with the interior region of the console enclosure which is otherwise made substantially airtight, thus forming a closed loop air passageway that includes the duct and the console enclosure, the duct being made and arranged to also contribute substantially to structural support of the console enclosure.

2. The combined support structure and cooling duct system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a first electric fan located near a first end region of the heat-dissipating duct, made and arranged to promote circulation of air around the closed loop air passageway.

3. The combined support structure and cooling duct system as defined in claim 2 further comprising a second electric fan located near a second end region of the heat-dissipating duct, made and arranged to further promote circulation of air around the closed loop air passageway.

4. The combined support structure and cooling duct system as defined in claim 2 wherein the heat-dissipating duct is made from metal in tubular form, configured in a U-shape with both upwardly-extending legs connected to a bottom panel of the console enclosure at respective through-openings.

5. The combined support structure and cooling duct system as defined in claim 2 further comprising a base platform, made and arranged to provide ground-level support of the console enclosure, attached in a supportive manner to the heat-

dissipating duct in a lower region thereof.

6. The combined support structure and cooling duct system as defined in claim 5 further comprising a straight support strut attached to the base platform and the bottom panel of the console enclosure, and extending there between in a predominantly vertical inclined direction.

7. The combined support structure and cooling duct system as defined in claim 6 wherein the straight support strut is a metal tube.

8. The combined support structure and cooling duct system as defined in claim 7 wherein the straight support strut is made and arranged to serve as a conduit for an interconnecting cable associated with the electronic circuitry.